

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /125 W
-----057657 201012Z /23

R 190835Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6483
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDOE WASHDC

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EMIN TECH MO
SUBJECT: ALLEGED SOVIET MOROCCAN AGREEMENT TO EXTRACT URANIUM
FROM PHOSPHORIC ACID

1. EMBASSY RECENTLY RECEIVED REQUEST FROM WYOMING MINERAL CORP.
(WESTINGHOUSE SUBSIDIARY) TO VERIFY REPORT APPEARING IN JULY 31,
1978 EDITION OF DAILY TRADE PUBLICATION ENERPRESSE (PUBLISHED BY
AGENCE EUROPEENE D'INFORMATION SUR L'ENERGIE, 176 RUE MONTMARTRE,
75002 PARIS TEL 267-83-21), TO THE EFFECT THAT GOM HAD SIGNED
AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE WITH USSR TO EXTRACT URANIUM FROM PHOSPHORIC
ACID AT OCP'S CHEMICAL COMPLEX AT SAFI. REPORT GOES ON TO MENTION
THAT AGREEMENT HAS YET TO BE FINALIZED, THAT IT IS SEPARATE
FROM, BUT A COMPLEMENT TO RECENTLY NEGOTIATED MESKALA AGREEMENT.

2. DURING AUGUST 16 MEETING WITH OCP DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
MOHAMED FETAH TO DISCUSS VARIETY OF ISSUES, E/C COUNSELOR
RAISED QUESTION OF ALLEGED URANIUM EXTRACTION AGREEMENT WITH
USSR. FETAH RESPONDED THAT OCP HAD NOT SIGNED ANY AGREEMENT
WITH ANYONE REGARDING THE ACQUISITION OF A URANIAUM EXTRACTION
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FACILIT AND, PURSUANT TO ITS LONGSTANDING POLICY ON THIS MATTER,
HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING SO UNTIL THE VARIOUS CONTENDERS
COULD DEMONSTRATE AN INDUSTRIAL-SCALE PLANT IN FULL OPERATION.
WHEN CONFRONTED WITH COPY OF ARTICLE (WHICH EMBASSY HAD JUST
RECEIVED FROM WYOMING MINERALS WITH COPY REPORTEDLY ALSO SENT
TO NEA/AFN) FETAH SAID THAT SUBSTANCE WAS SPURIOUS; THAT THERE
WAS NO AGREEMENT EITHER IN EFFECT OR CONTEMPLATED, AND THAT IN

ANY CASE SOVIETS HAD NO TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO EXTRACT URANIUM FROM PHOSPHORIC ACID.

3. FETAH ALSO NOTED THAT OCP WAS FULLY AWARE OF FAST BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS IN URANIUM EXTRACTION BUSINESS, WAS FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN FLORIDA, FRANCE AND CANADA CLOSELY AND PLANNED TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH ALL CONTENDERS IN THE BUSINESS AS A MATTER OF CORPORATE POLICY. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, NO SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN URANIUM EXTRACTION TO OCP'S KNOWLEDGE.

4. EMBASSY PARIS MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHECK OUT SOURCE OF ENERPRESSE REPORT IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES AND EMBASSY MOSCOW MIGHT WISH TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER SOVIETS HAVE INDEED DEVELOPED ANY EXTRACTION TECHNOLOGY. ENERPRESSE REPORT INTRIGUED US IN RABAT SINCE A LENGTHY ALTHOUGH IN MANY POINTS FACTUALLY IN-ACCURATE ARTICLE, IN JULY 26 JEUNE AFRIQUE ON SOVIET-MOROCCAN MESKALA AGREEMENT MENTIONED FACT AHT USSR HAD SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED A URANIUM EXTRACTION TECHNOLOGY.

5. REQUEST NEA-AFN COMMUNICATE SUBSTANCE OF PARA 2 ABOVE TO MR. LEONARD BROCK, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, WYOMING MINERAL CORPORATION, LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803 TEL 813-644-3551. TWX 810-867-0463, OAS EMBASSY'S RESPONSE TO HIS INQUIRY. MOFFAT

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